RPO Guwahati and 144 at RPO Calcutta (in respect of PACC Agartala) pending issue of passports where police verification reports have been received and the applications are complete in all respects.

The prescribed time taken for issue of a passport is 35 days from the date of receipt of the application. However, due to various reasons such as delay in receipt of police verification reports and incomplete information from applicants, the time taken for issue of passports may exceed 35 days. The issue of passports at various Passport Offices is monitored through periodic returns on weekly basis and those Passport Offices which have pendency are directed to take measure to clear the same.

Israel's response over Jammu and Kashmir terrorism

3701. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 11th January, 2001 captioned "Israel willing to exchange notes with India over Jammu and Kashmir terrorism"; and

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported therein and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and Israel have agreed to establish a dialogue on counter terrorism. Details are being worked out by the concerned authorities in the two countries.